FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 OCTOBER 1986

Syria

The Break With Britain — Britain's "provocative" action against Syria was discussed at a Progressive National Front Central Command meeting chaired by President Hafiz al-Asad, Damascus radio reported, noting that Al-Asad expressed confidence that the people are ready to offer "all the necessary sacrifices to defeat the imperialists." The radio also broadcast a Ba'th Party statement calling for "an extensive political and media campaign in Arab and world public opinion circles to condemn the British government's move." The statement claimed that the British government "planned the Israeli plane drama, which was arranged by British intelligence and the Mosad."

In further Arab reaction, the Saudi information minister disclosed that the Council of Ministers expressed "regret and concern" that Syria and Britain broke relations for reasons which are thus far "not clear" to Saudi Arabia, according to Riyadh radio. Noting that Syria has denied Britain's accusations, the Saudi cabinet said the two countries should have been able to resolve their differences through "the usual diplomatic means." The Jordanian prime minister also expressed "regret" over the issue in a statement to Amman's *Al-Ra'y*, asserting that the deterioration of British-Syrian relations will increase tension in the Mideast and diminish peace efforts.

Internal Situation — The Cairo-based "National Alliance Office for the Liberation of Syria" stated that the Syrian authorities recently began a new arrest campaign against "national forces," MENA reported. Those detained include a number of lawyers who attended an 18 October conference at which demands were made for freedom, democracy, and the release of detainees. MENA also cited a Paris magazine report that the Syrian authorities have arrested members of Nasirite groups.

Lebanon

Violent clashes between Amal and the Palestinians continued in the Al-Rashidiyah camp area, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. On the Sidon front, the Popular Liberation Army deployed buffer forces in several villages previously taken by the Palestinians, according to AFP.

Palestinians and Libya

An "informed" source in Tunis cited by KUNA disclosed that the PLO has accepted a Libyan proposal to hold a joint Arab defense council meeting to discuss Israel's nuclear weapons capability. Meanwhile, JANA reported that Fatah, the Revolutionary Council, sent a cable to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi offering the Libyan leader part of the wreckage of the Israeli plane downed near Sidon. Fatah, the Revolutionary Council, is associated with Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal.

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni authorized Intelligence Minister Mohammad Reyshahri to proceed with the investigation and prosecution of Mehdi Hashemi and other "counterrevolutionary and deviating individuals" involved in "spreading rumors and other false issues." Khomeyni's ruling was contained in an exchange of letters with Reyshahri, as broadcast by Tehran radio. The intelligence minister had asked Khomeyni to express his views on the investigation of charges against Mehdi Hashemi's group in view of the "adverse climate created by some remnants of this group."

A 25 October article by Paris *Le Monde* linked Mehdi Hashemi's arrest with the "war of succession" in Iran, stating that Mehdi Hashemi is a "righthand man" of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. The latter responded to Hashemi's arrest by submitting his resignation from his post as Khomeyni's official successor, though Khomeyni has not yet accepted the resignation, *Le Monde* said. Mehdi Hashemi reportedly opposed the current strategy pursued by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and he was arrested after his supporters kidnapped and beat up the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran.

In the wake of the *Le Monde* story, Montazeri's office in Tehran denied that he has resigned, telling AFP that Montazeri is "still very much the appointed next leader."

PDRY

Djibouti President Hassan Gouled Aptidon received the PDRY transport minister who delivered a message from Presidium Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Djibouti radio reported. Before returning home, the minister and his delegation were also received by Somali President Challe Mohamed Said Barre, according to Mogadishu radio.

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6th Soviet Regiment Departs Konduz; Watanjar Attends

LD271848 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Excerpts] The sixth regiment of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union has left Konduz for its peace-loving country after completing its internationalist duty in assisting the people of Afghanistan to defend our independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.

At a meeting held in Konduz, which was attended by hundreds of citizens of Konduz City including workers, peasants, ulema, religious leaders, elders, intellectuals, men and officers of the Armed Forces, and party and state officials, gratitude was expressed for the fraternal assistance of the friendly Soviet Union and the heroic services of the internationalist men and officers of that country who have even given their lives in helping the people of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

A BIA correspondent reports that Communications Minister Comrade Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Political Bureau, then spoke on behalf of the party and state leadership of the DRA and the people of Afghanistan, expressing gratitude for the friendly and broad assistance of the friendly Soviet Union: The last of the six regiments of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union is leaving Konduz for its great and peace-loving country. The decision of the Soviet Government in this regard in agreement with the DRA Government was announced in Vladivostok by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade Gorbachev.

Comrade Watanjar said: The Soviet Union, the internationalist friend of our friendly and fraternal country, assisted us at a time when the question of the life or death of the April Revolution was at stake, and it helped the people of Afghanistan in defending their independence and freedom. The internationalist men and officers protected the people of Afghanistan from mercenary murderers and as a result of their internationalist epics, children are going to school, farmers are harvesting their crops, and the workers are at their machines. This epic will remain the most glittering symbol of Afghan-Soviet friendship for centuries. Great thanks to you, sons of the great land of the great Lenin!

Watanjar added: The hope of final victory is on our side. Our Armed Forces are ready to perform combat duties on their own. They are equipped not only with the most modern weapons but also with the most modern art of warfare. [passage omitted]

Then the honorary banner of the PDPA Central Committee, courage medals of the party Central Committee, and honorary badges of the DRA were distributed to the men and officers of the returning regiment of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union by Mohammad Aslam Watanjar and Mir Saheb Karwal. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Cited on Attack on Departing Soviet Troops

BK280856 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 28 (AFP) — Moslem guerrillas attacked a withdrawing Soviet air defence regiment near the northern Salang Pass last week killing up to 35 soldiers, Western diplomats said here Tuesday.

Quoting reliable sources in Kabul, the diplomats said the mujahidin crippled the Soviet unit's lead and tail vehicles then fired on the trapped troops.

The diplomats said the unit had left Kabul as part of a partial Soviet withdrawal after a ceremony on October 19.

AFP Reports on Further Violence

BK281152 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Oct 28 (AFP) — [Passage omitted] Some 8,000 troops left Afghanistan following an announcement by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on July 28. According to the diplomats, the withdrawal coincided with intermittent heavy machine gun fire and repeated explosions in Kabul, although the regime had taken strict security precautions including helicopter surveillance.

The diplomats also reported that 300 houses were destroyed in northern Shakar Dara just before the pullout which began on October 15.

The diplomats also reported heavy fighting in the eastern Paktia sector bordering Pakistan where the Afghan Army's deputy commander, Colonel Hashmatullah reportedly surrendered to the mujahidin along with an unspecified number of men in the Jaji area on October 19.

Rebels also destroyed three electric pylons on the Jalalabad-Kabul road affecting the power supply to the capital, they said.

Quoting travellers from Jalalabad, east of Kabul, the diplomats said the road to the capital was mostly under the control of the rebels who were extracting "taxes" from passing vehicles, while at some places the Soviet-Afghan troops also demanded "goodwill money".

Pakistan Envoy Summoned Over 24 Oct Bombing

LD271648 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The Pakistan Embassy charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry today at 1615. The following protest note was given to him by the director of the First Political Section:

On 24 October 1986, between 0700 to 0720, 38 missiles [as heard] were fired from Pakistan's soil on to the residential area of Barikowt, Konarha Province. As a result, four residents of the region were martyred, eight were wounded, and seven houses were destroyed.

The DRA Government condemns this savage and provocative action by the Pakistani military authorities and strongly protests to the Pakistani Government. It demands that the Pakistani authorities end such actions or responsibility for any conse-

quences of such hostile actions will rest with the Pakistani Government.

Daily Cited on China's Involvement in 'Undeclared War'

LD280713 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Kabul, October 27, BAKHTAR — The direct involvement of war mercenaries, American and British advisors, reactionary states of the region, and other imperialist countries in the undeclared war against the DRA has been intensified, writes an article published in daily *Haqiqat-e Enqelab-e Sawr*. China is also directly involved in this undeclared war, adds the article.

Its military advisors, the article continues to say, have illegally entered the territory of the DRA. The latest fact indicates that six Chinese advisors along with American military advisors have been seen in Nazian District, Nangarhar Province. As a result of a successful mopping up operation carried out by the Armed Forces of the DRA, three of them were killed and one was captured by the security forces.

The Afghan people, the article points out, are well aware that after the victory of the April Revolution the reactionary and warmongering forces entered into an unholy alliance against the revolution. The hegemonist China joined the alliance as well. The United States sent large consignment of weapons to the Afghan counter-revolution. Parallel to it, China sent anti-tank and anti-air missiles. Washington instructed CIA to organise the undeclared war by setting up camps for the counter-revolutionaries and by carrying out subversive operations in Afghanistan. China delivered lethal weapons to the bandits. It set up camps in Chinese soil for giving military training to the hirelings of imperialism. Over 700 bandits are receiving commando training in these camps.

Washington, Beijing, and Islamabad have already agreed that the U.S. and China should step up their military and financial assistance to the counter-revolution. Following this triangular accord, about 2000 machine-guns, 1000 anti-tank missiles, and half a million bullets were put at the disposal of the Afghan counter-revolution.

Undoubtedly, such aggressive and provocative activities are hampering the solution of the situation around the DRA, remarks the article.

However, the hostile activities of the enemies are doomed to failure and they will benefit nothing but ignomity, writes the article in conclusion.

'Criminal Bands' 'Crushed' in Bagrami; Weapons Seized

LD271822 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] By their brave and timely attacks on the nests of criminal bands of Gulbuddin and Rabani in the (Lojon) Valley, in the District of Bagrami, our Armed Forces have prevented an anti-Islamic and criminal action against our toiling compatriots.

A number of members of these criminal bands were crushed and 100 surface-to-surface rockets, a recoilless gun, arms and ammunition made in imperialist countries and stored in this valley, were seized by the heroic Armed Forces during the successful operations.

India's President Congratulates Ershad on Election

BK270953 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, today congratulated General Ershad on his election as the president of Bangladesh. In a message, the president expressed the hope that cordial and friendly relations between the two countries would grow closer and stronger. Giani Zail Singh also wished General Ershad personal health and happiness.

AFP: Student 'Activists' Riot at Dhaka University

BK281413 Hong Kong AFP in English 1408 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 28 (AFP) — An opposition student activists went on the rampage in Dhaka University Tuesday setting fire to a van and seizing a number of vehicles, eyewitnesses said. The activists, believed to belong to the student wing of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, were demanding the release of two of their leaders jailed last December.

The students charged through the university campus setting fire to a garbage van and seizing 10 vehicles mostly belonging to the government or international agencies, eyewitnesses said. The witnesses said that riot police and fire engines moved onto the campus and extinguished the fire. They were unable, however, to secure the release of the vehicles although the drivers were allowed to leave unharmed. they added.

AFP Reports Habiganj College 'Clashes', Closure

BK260851 Hong Kong AFP in English 0838 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 26 (AFP) — At least 60 people, including 17 policemen, have been injured in clashes between pro-government and opposition student groups at a college in northeastern Bangladesh, press reports said Sunday.

The Bengali daily *Ittefaq* said the college in Habiganj District had been closed down indefinitely after the fighting erupted Saturday. The newspaper quoted police as saying that the clash began when supporters of a pro-government group stopped members of opposition groups from entering the campus. Both sides threw stones and Molotov cocktails until the authorities called the police, the daily said. Thirty people were seriously injured in the fighting and had been admitted to hospital, according to another report.

Claim of Military's Torture of Tribal Groups Denied

BK261431 Hong Kong AFP in English 1353 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 26 (AFP) — The government said here Sunday that Amnesty International's recent charges of torture and murder by the military against tribal groups in southeastern Bangladesh had been blown out of all proportion. "It is nothing but a one-sided version based on hearsay and tales," Government Spokesman Narun Nabi Chowdhury said of an October 8 report, issued by the London-based human rights group Amnesty International.

The report accused the military of killing or torturing hundreds of unarmed villagers in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of southeastern Bangladesh in the past 10 years. It said that a majority of the abuses had been committed during anti-insurgency operations in the remote region after attacks by Shanti Bahini rebels.

The 13,000 square-kilometre (5,200 square-mile) hilly and jungled region, bordering Burma and India's Tripura State, is inhabited by several thousand families belonging to different tribes. Elements formed Shanti Bahini (peace forward) in the early 1970's to press forward their demands for tribal autonomy and opposition to a government policy encouraging lowland people to settle in the fertile but sparsely populated area.

Mr Chowdhury denied any violation of human rights in the hill tracts and said that "violence and feuds" were natural among the tribes.

According to the Ammnesty report, the Shanti Bahini had opposed the government's policy through numerous attacks on troops and settlers over the years. It quoted eyewitness accounts alleging that human rights violations by government forces had escalated between February and May.

"We have no report of any such violation," Mr Chowdhury said. He claimed that most of the area was peaceful and only small areas along the north and northeastern borders of the hill tracts were affected by Shanti Bahini insurgent activities.

Mr Chowdhury dismissed Amnesty reports that unarmed tribals were tortured to compel them to move to "protected villages', which he said did not exist. He declined to give official statistics on the number of people killed in violence in the hill tracts but earlier official sources had indicated that about 6,000 people including insurgents, settlers, and security men had been killed in the past decade.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government announced in April 1985 a general amnesty, for the armed tribal insurgents. About 3,000 armed Shanti Bahini activists had surrendered to the government since, officials claimed. No firm figure of the number of armed activists was available, but according to one estimate the insurgent strength varies from 2,000 to 3,000.

Natwar Singh, Envoy to Sri Lanka Brief Gandhi
BK271614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, accompanied by India's high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, met the prime minister in New Delhi today. Mr Natwar Singh briefed Mr Rajiv Gandhi about the local developments with regard to India's good offices for a political settlement of the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka. Mr Dixit also apprised the prime minister about the latest developments in that country.

Soviet Delegation Visits, Offers Railway Assistance
BK280325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] The Soviet Union has offered to associate itself with the modernization program of Indian railways. The visiting Soviet delegation held talks with the chairman of the Railway Board, Mr Prakash Narain, in New Delhi on possibilities of cooperation in the railway sector. The delegation is led by the deputy chairman of the State Planning Committee, Mr V.P. Lakhtin.

Minister Urges Expanded Cooperation With Hungary
BK271633 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] The industry minister, Mr Vengal Rao, has called for practical measures to expand and diversify bilateral relations between India and Hungary. He was addressing the sixth session of the Indo-Hungarian Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation in New Delhi today. He expressed the hope that there will be some Indo-Hungarian joint ventures in Hungary. The Hungarian delegation leader, Dr Istvan Hetenyi, outlined some important areas in which Hungary will welcome collaboration and joint ventures.

'Terrorists' Kill 3; Hoshiarpur Curfew Continues
BK280309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead three persons and injured three others at a village, (Taramkot Bugga), near Batala, in Gurdaspur District early this morning. A police spokesman said the assailants started firing indiscriminately on people at a religious place. Senior police officials have rushed to the spot, and a massive manhunt is on to nab the terrorists. The Gurdaspur police chief says the three of the four terrorists involved in the incident have been identified; each of them carries a reward of 25,000 rupees on his head.

The curfew in Malout town of Faridkot District is being relaxed for 9 hours from 0800 this morning following improvement in the situation. District authorities say all government offices and educational institutions will remain open during the curfew relaxation period. However, indefinite curfew continues in Hoshi-arpur. The curfew was imposed following brickbatting by two rival groups during yesterday's bundh [strike]. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh that the decision about relaxation of the curfew will be taken after reviewing the situation later in the day.

Delhi Reports Congress-I Leader Shot
BK280852 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Excerpt] In Punjab, six persons, including a Congress-I leader were gunned down by terrorists in two separate incidents today. Mr Sewa Singh, a senior vice president of the Gurdaspur District Congress-I committee, was shot dead by some unidentified persons outside his house in Gurdaspur this morning. The assailants who came on cycles later escaped.

Terrorists shot dead two persons in Nainawal village in Sangrur District this morning. [passage omitted]

Ziaul Haq Said Using 'Subterfuge' To Acquire U.S. Arms
BK271224 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
20 Oct 86 p 9

[Editorial: "Same Old Story"]

[Text] Pakistani President Ziaul Haq has again cashed in on the Soviet-Afghan bogey to extract whatever further military support he can from the U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, during the latter's Islamabad visit. And from the way Weinberger expressed his fear about possible Soviet air attacks on Pak territory, it became quite clear that the top Reagan emissary was taken in by Zia's subterfuge. This is nothing surprising. Using the same old ploy, Zia made the Reagan Administration part with its most advanced F-16 aircraft, acquiring as many as 40 jets ostensibly to defend itself against Soviet-backed Afghan regime; interestingly, Zia fell for these planes only after the Israeli Air Force demonstrated how effective and deadly the F-16's could be when it razed to the ground Iraq's nuclear installation using these machines. Now the U.S. Government is once again in the process of equipping the Pakistan Air Force with Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft to "bolster, as Weinberger termed it, Pakistan's defences against Soviet and Afghan Government attacks on its northern border." [quotation marks as published]

If that be so, Islamabad's air machine should be pointing towards its northern border and not against India's. And the newly acquired F-16's have been positioned on bases with an eye on Indian targets rather than Afghan areas; so it is abundantly clear to what purpose the Pak Air Force would be utilising the AWACS planes: expressly against India. Surely, the Reagan Administration could not be so naive as not to see through Zia's game, specially in the context f the dubious record of previous Pakistani regimes. In 1965 and again in 1971 Islamabad used

U.S. military equipment against India in contravention of its agreement with Washington. What can prevent Zia now from going back on his word? Zia is sadly mistaken if he thinks that the acquisition of the most advanced aircraft and electronic systems would be enough to browbeat India into inaction so that he can with impunity continue his mischief in Kashmir and Punjab. So far New Delhi has shown restraint but if things go out of hand it might be compelled to warn Zia of the disastrous consequences of his devious game.

Libyan Envoy Conveys 'Confidential' Note to President

NC272208 Paris AFP in English 2159 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 27 (AFP) — An envoy from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi delivered a confidential message to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq Monday, official sources here said. The envoy, who flew in on an unannounced visit, held a series of talks with other Pakistani leaders including Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, they said.

The visit follows a cooling of relations between the two Moslem states after reports in the local press implicated Libya in the hijack of a PAN AM jet at Karachi airport last month in which 22 people were killed.

Yaqub Khan Urges 'Pressure' To Ensure Soviet Pullout

BK271621 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that international pressure is of vital importance for compelling the Soviet Union to fix an appropriate time frame for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad Airport this morning before his departure for New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly debate on Afghanistan beginning on 4 November. The foreign minister said moral pressure is essential for the withdrawal of Soviet troops because this is the only major issue which remains to be settled at the indirect negotiations. Moral pressure of the international community is of vital importance for compelling the other side to resolve this problem politically.

The foreign minister said the Geneva indirect negotiations will resume in a few weeks. He expressed the hope that substantial progress will be made regarding the finalization of a time frame for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan.

The foreign minister said the violations of our borders and airspace by the other side have increased by more than three times this year and military operations against the Afghan mujahidin have been intensified. The operations have failed, but it seems certain people are still hopeful of a military solution to the Afghanistan problem. As for Pakistan, it has always maintained that a political settlement is the only solution for this problem. Referring to the Soviet announcement concerning the token withdrawal of the Soviet regiments from Afghanistan, the foreign minister expressed the hope that the Soviet forces will ultimately completely withdraw from that country.

Editorial Comments on U.S. 'Double Dealing'

BK261030 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 18 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Eschew Double-Dealing, Please"]

[Text] Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev have met. While the Afghanistan question is said to have been discussed, the statements of the two sides indicate that they did not give much importance to this problem to the benefit of the Soviet Union whose sole objective is to keep the Afghan tangle lingering for as long as possible and keep the Geneva indirect or direct negotiations going so that it may have enough time to firmly set its feet on Afghan soil. The United States, too, will probably not tolerate Afghanistan's talking about the enforcement of the Islamic system, as in Iran and Pakistan, after its liberation from Soviet occupation.

Let us look at U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's statement that the United States will not let Pakistan's defense weaken but rather will make it stronger to help safeguard its frontiers. In this connection, it can be said that Weinberger has already visited India, exchanged sweet words with Rajiv Gandhi, heard his complaints, given assurances about strengthening India's defense and supplying sophisticated military equipment, and then has come to Islamabad. Here too, he gave similar assurances that the United States will under no circumstances let Pakistan's defenses weaken and that it will supply sophisticated arms and appropriate systems to Pakistan for the defense of its borders. He also added that Pakistan's defense capability is stronger than before.

When Weinberger was asked about U.S. response in the event of an attack on Pakistan, he evaded the question by saying that it is only a presupposition. He certainly spoke of very strong relations between the United States and Pakistan, but he gave vague answers to most questions. This strengthens the doubt that our total dependence on the United States will be fruitful in the future. In this connection, our bitter past experiences cannot be completely forgotten.

Winberger has come to Pakistan after a visit to India where an anti-Pakistan propaganda campaign is raging in full force, even though the the Pakistani Foreign Ministry has categorically stated that Pakistan has neither the intention nor the resources to enter into an arms race with any country, including India. It further added that if there is any arms race, it is the race of only one country — India. Comparing the arms purchases of India and Pakistan, the spokesman said that while Pakistan has signed agreements for the purchase of 40 aircraft over the past 6 years, India has entered into agreements to purchase hundreds of aircraft and, of those, has already bought 300 to 400 planes. This brings the ratio of arms purchases to at least 1 to 10. Meanwhile, India has also concluded a big arms deal with the Soviet Union and has signed other agreements for acquiring submarines from West Germany and the latest military aircraft from Britain and France; Pakistan did not raise a rumpus over these Indian military preparations. It is our desire that India should also recognize this principle and stop spiteful propaganda against Pakistan. The United States, too, it is hoped, will see this side of the picture and will not be influenced by India's deceptive foreign strategy.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger said that President Reagan had once again raised the Afghanistan issue with Soviet leader Gorbachev in Iceland and said that the Afghan issue is a serious problem. Weinberger said the newspapers had failed to highlight the fact that the Afghan question had figured prominently during the summit conference. The question is why was the press reporting on U.S.-Soviet talks on disarmament and the Star Wars program so clearly vivid and unambiguous, while

reports on their discussions on the Afghan question were almost nonexistent, suppressed, and ambiguous? This very symptom is visible in the U.S. attitude at the time of providing assistance to Pakistan. On one hand, loud claims are made regarding support and assistance to Pakistan, and on the other, sophisticated computers and military equipment are supplied to India to placate New Delhi in spite of Islamabad's protests. And then Islamabad is assured that India's becoming powerful will not cause harm to Pakistan! It will suffice to say here that this U.S. double dealing creates suspicions in the minds of its friends who want a categorical assurance as to whether the United States will assist them in time of need or, as usual, leave them only with its promises. The United States should eschew this double standard and become candid and forthright for its own benefit and for the benefit of its friends.

DAWN Comments on Indian Border Exercises; Relations

BK280739 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Oct 86 p 7

[Editorial: "Recurring Shadows on Indo-Pakistan Relations"]

[Text] Reports regarding the concentration of Indian troops on our western borders cannot but cause concern in this country. No matter whether the troops are there ostensibly for the purpose of exercises or any other reason, concern will be natural in the light of our vexed relations, especially the deterioration seen in them since the beginning of this year. The Indian Government has been accusing Pakistan of providing aid and assistance to Sikh terrorists, a charge Pakistan has consistently and vehemently denied. Despite repeated requests, India has never thought fit to provide concrete proof about such involvement. Yet the accusations continue, perhaps because the Indian Government, mired in its own difficulties, is seeking an external scapegoat for domestic compulsions. This is an old trick and an old game but a short-sighted one which only makes matters worse eventually. Another twist to this worsening situation has been added by the irresponsible stories suggesting that the person arrested recently for attempting to assassinate the Indian Prime Minister had received training in Pakistan. The insinuation in these reports was bad enough. It was made worse by the frenzied publicity given to it. This beggar-thy-neighbour policy is fraught with danger since tension serves the interests of neither India nor Pakistan but only exacerbates an already explosive regional situation. After fighting three wars and achieving nothing except a legacy of bitterness which has perpetuated the divisions of the past, the time has come to turn a new leaf and, even if expectations are to be kept low, work for a constructive and business-like relationship.

After Zia-Rajiv meeting in New Delhi last year the outlook for the future had begun to look promising. An ambitious programme of mutual visits, to be topped off by a visit to Islamabad by Mr Gandhi, had been drawn up. All that has fallen by the wayside as both countries (let us not at this stage go into the business of apportioning blame) have reverted to their normative standard of suspicion and acrimony. Is there a curse on our relations? Must every brief period of sunshine be followed by uncertain and stormy weather? It is incumbent on the leaders of both countries to rise above the temptation of sacrificing the long-term perspective to transitory political considerations. This is in their supreme mutual interests. As for the concentration of the Indian Army on our borders, if it is not wound down, or if it is unaccompanied by any explanation of what its purpose is, tension will inevitably be fuelled. As a matter of fact, both India and Pakistan should adopt some permanent confidence-building measures like giving advance notice of military exercises along each other's borders. If the Warsaw Pact and NATO, between whom the divide runs deeper, have been able to agree on such measures, why cannot Pakistan and India do the same?

NEPAL

Politician, Journalist Jailed for Antigovernment Poem

BK250830 Hong Kong AFP in English 0122 GMT 25 Oct 86

[Text] Katmandu, Oct 25 (AFP) — A member of the Nepalese Parliament and a prominent newspaper editor were still in custody here after their arrests related to the publication of a poem critical of the country's style of government, an official source said.

Member of the Panchayat (Parliament) Rupchand Bista was arrested for having written a satirical poem critical of the style and functioning of Nepal's 25-year-old partyless system of government.

The Communications Ministry banned the influential vernacular newspaper *Bimarsha* that published the poem and on October 10 arrested its editor and publisher, Keshav Raj Pindali. Both men were still in the central jail here facing further legal action, the source said Friday.

In written statements, both men have argued that the poem, "Beware," was not written in opposition to the Nepalese Constitution and crown. Authorities have said the weekly newspaper contravened the Press and Publication Act by publishing material that was "anti-constitutional" and "objectionable."

Mr Bista told a special tribunal held here Thursday and Friday that he took sole responsibility for the poem which he said he wrote to be used as campaign material during general elections last May. He asked the tribunal to punish him as necessary but to pardon Mr Pindali and lift the permanent ban on the weekly newspaper.

Both men face a minimum of three years in prison and a fine of 3000 rupees if convicted under the State Offence Act, legal experts said.

SRI LANKA

Minister Says Sinhalese Youths Trained for Terrorism

BK261119 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Oct 86

[Text] Nearly 200 Sinhalese youths were being trained in terrorists camps in the north, according to National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali. The minister, quoting government intelligence reports on the current situation in the country, said these persons were staunch members of extremist political parties.

Mr Athulathmudali said that he had directed all authorities concerned to expedite investigations into persons held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and emergency regulations and submit reports through the attorney general to enable him to take early action.

Asked whether there were political prisoners in Sri Lanka, Mr Athulathmudali said that, although terrorists claimed that there were political prisoners, those persons had been taken into custody for various offences which came within the ambit of the law. He said all countries which follow democratic principles had assumed special powers to deal with situation like terrorism, and if not the whole democratic process would face extinction.

Security Forces, 'Terrorists' Observe 24-Hour Truce

BK271015 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0945 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 27 (LANKA PUWATH) — The guns remained silent in northern and eastern Sri Lanka today as both the country's security forces and separatist terrorists began observing a 24 hour truce today.

Troops relaxed and were entertained to a series of variety shows by leading local "show biz" personalities, while the people of terrorism-plagued northern and eastern Sri Lanka had smiling faces, as the terrorists lay aside their arms and allowed people to go about their normal business without let or hindrance.

'Terrorists' Violate Truce; Kill Sentry

BK281047 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1020 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — Separatist terrorists in Sri Lanka deliberately violated the truce and treated the Pope's appeal to observe yesterday as a day of truce with derision, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today.

It states, "when His Holiness Pope John Paul II appealed to the nations of the world to observe a day of truce on 27-10-86 if and where necessary, the Sri Lankan Government immediately responded with an unconditional acceptance of the appeal of his holiness. The government also appealed that the terrorists would heed the appeal of the pope unconditionally. However, the terrorists responded by accepting the appeal but laying down the condition that the security forces be completely confined to barracks while they be free to act as they wished.

Yesterday the terrorists deliberately violated the truce and treated the Pope's appeal with derision. The first incident took place when the terrorists fired at a helicopter which was transporting radio and television artists who had gone to Jaffna not only to entertain the troops but on a peace mission for, they carried with them a large number of posters in Tamil and English calling for peace and amity.

The second incident took place at Thondamannar at about 1625 hours (local time) on 27-10-86 when Corporal D.W.W. Silva was returning from the security point back to the main camp after posting a new sentry at the appointed hour, thus changing guard.

Cpl Silva was unarmed at the time when he was shot and killed by terrorists, who had crept into the Thondamannar Hindu Temple thus once again desecrating the sanctity of the temple and breaking the truce.

Land Mine Explosion Kills 2 Policemen, Wounds 6
BK280911 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0852 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — Two policemen were killed and six other policemen were wounded when a separatist terrorist surface mine exploded at Arasaddi, Batticaloa town, eastern Sri Lanka today.

The Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH that the incident occurred at 0645 hours (local time) today when a squad of policemen were on a routine patrol.

Navy Patrol Captures 'Terrorists' 23 Oct
BK280645 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0640 GMT 28 Oct 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 28 (LANKA PUWATH) — A Sri Lanka Naval patrol captured seven terrorists speeding in a mechanised vallam (boat) towards Gurunagar off Pallaitivu in northern Sri Lanka last Sunday, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH today.

Khomeyni Answers Reyshahri on Arrest of Hashemi

LD271938 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Following the arrest of Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi and some of his associates, Intelligence Minister Reyshahri, in a letter to the imam of the nation, requested his holiness to express his opinion regarding the adverse climate created in order to confuse minds and cause discord. His holiness has also been asked to express his views in connection with the serious investigation of this issue. The text of Mr Reyshahri's letter follows:

In his exalted name.

To Imam Khomeyni, great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Peace be upon you.

As you are aware, Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi and a number of his contacts have been arrested in accordance with a warrant issued by the judicial power and with the knowledge and approval of your excellency, and they are now being held by the Intelligence Ministry for investigation and interrogation. Some of the charges against them are:

1. murder before the revolution victory;
2. murder and abduction after the revolution victory;
3. cooperation with SAVAK; (this charge is only against Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi)
4. illegal possession of firearms and explosives;
5. possession of confidential government-related documents;
6. forging government-related documents; and
7. secret illegal activities.

In view of the adverse climate created by some remnants of this group in order to confuse and silence the people, your holiness is requested to express your views on the serious investigation of all charges against this group by the Intelligence Ministry.

[Signed] Intelligence Minister Mohammad Reyshahri, 26 October 1986

The reply given by the imam — may his lofty shadow increase — to the intelligence minister's letter, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

To Your Excellency Intelligence Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri.

In view of the issues divulged or suspected so far, and in view of the rumors and various statements issued in different names by counterrevolutionary and deviating individuals affiliated with Mehdi Hashemi, not only is suspicion increased, but it produces clear proof that their line has deviated from the revolution and from Islam. Your excellency is dutybound to investigate all aspects of this matter with utmost care and fairness. You should also prosecute all the accused individuals who are regarded as the leaders of this group, and any other individuals who have been involved in spreading rumors and other false issues. Naturally, since this is an issue connected with the country's security and is against Islam and the revolution, only the Intelligince Ministry should investigate it. I must stress that all are equal before Islam's judgment and inasmuch as negligence toward offenders is a deadly sin, so violation of innocent people's rights is among the unforgiveable sins. You should realize that Almighty God is present and watching your deeds, and that justice is a kind of servitude which clears the names of some outstanding figures from accusations and neutralizes conspiracies of the misled. May peace be also upon you.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni, 27 October 1986

AFP Told Montazeri 'Still' Khomeyi Successor

NC280923 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28 (AFP) — Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's chosen successor as Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah 'Ali Montazeri, Tuesday denied rumours that he had resigned over allegations that his son-in-law had kidnapped a Syrian diplomat.

Mr Montazeri's office in Tehran told AFP he was "still very much the appointed next leader". His position had seemed shaky when reliable sources said that he had resigned on October 18 after defending his son-in-law Mahdi Hashemi, an official at the Iranian bureau for aid to Islamic liberation movements.

Mr Hashemi and others in Mr Montazeri's circle of friends had been accused of kidnapping the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran on October 3.

'Expert' Cited on UK 'Conspiracy' Against Syria

LD272009 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 27, IRNA — Syrians have welcomed the rupture of Britain's relations with Damascus with an air of indifference, thereby disproving British calculations that its Friday's move would put the Syrian Government in an embarassing position.

Britain on Oct 24 declared the Syrian ambassador to London 'persona non grata' for the country's alleged role in what is widely viewed as trumped-up terrorism charges. It subsequently broke its ties recalling its ambassador from Damascus. Meanwhile, a political expert has termed the summoning home of British and U.S. ambassadors more a political maneuver intended to evaluate Arab reactions and to overshadow major world issues.

The U.S. and Britain have long dictated to the reactionary Arab wing to accept the Zionist entity's existence, he said, adding that this new move is intended to isolate the steadfastness front states with a view to making it easy for appeasement minded Arab states to recognize the Zionist state.

The unfolding conspiracy against progressive Arab Syria, which is actively facing the Zionist enemy comes as no surprise, especially so after Reagan's dastardly air attack on another progressive state, Libya, in April earlier this year.

The silence as was expected of the Arab world towards this sensitive issue will actually make the ground more fertile for

further imperialist-Zionist plots against Arabs and Muslims, the expert warned.

Failure of Arab states to take a stand against this conspiracy as was so evident in the unofficial statement of the Arab League head, which must be addressed in this framework.

Another move, which the expert described as "pouring salt on the wound" was the trip of neighboring Jordan's chief of staff to London on Saturday.

Commenting as to why France did not tow the Anglo-American line, the expert said, the real reason is that Western imperialism did not want it to. He noted it was part of their policy to keep France as a connecting bridge between the West and Syria.

The West intends by this policy to ultimatly pressure Syria into joining the reactionary camp and accept the Zionist regime as a reality, the expert said.

Citing the timing of the Anglo-American move against Syria, the expert regretted that the conspiracy follows the suspicious plane crash in which the prominent anti-apartheid fighter Mozambican President Samora Machel was killed.

At a time when all fingers were pointing to the Western backed racist regime of Pretoria as being responsible for Machel's death, the imperialist-Zionist media devoted all its energy to diverting attention from the issue by convicting Syria on the spurious charges in a move no doubt intended to pave the way for further media vilification of the Muslim nation.

The expert concluded that global arrogance is fearful of the awakening of Muslims and the intensification of their anti-imperialist struggles and is therefore vainly trying to impose an updated version of new colonialism.

Lebanese Group Requests Camps War Mediation

LD280023 Tehran IRNA in English 2228 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Beirut, Oct 27 IRNA — The Assembly of Lebanese Ulema Monday appealed to Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri for immediate Iranian mediation to end the camps war in Lebanon.

In the cable, the Lebanese Muslim ulema expressed deep concern over the clashes in Sidon and Tyre, and noted that the warring groups' fight is based on tribal motives. If the clashes continue, the cable added, the future of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims, whether Shi'a or Sunni, will be in serious jeopardy. The assembly emphasized that committed Muslims in Lebanon will do all within their power to thwart plots aimed at sowing discord.

Ayatollah Montazeri had earlier this year dispatched mediators to the region which helped bring ceasefire in the camp fighting.

Soviet Envoy Meets Energy Official on Cooperation

LD280817 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — The Soviet ambassador to Tehran, Vil Boldyrev, in a meeting with Deputy for Legal and International Affairs of Energy Ministry Adeli, here Monday discussed expansion of mutual relations.

Adeli stressed that the joint dam building projects over the border rivers of Aras and Atrak should be executed. The Soviet ambassador also emphasised that talks on the issue must be finalised.

In order to finalise talks and conclude an agreement for bilateral cooperation and establishment of joint facilities over the border rivers, Adeli and a team from the ministry will visit the Soviet Union in the near future.

Commerce Minister Heads Delegation to Finland

NC280831 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Commerce Minister Abedi-Ja'fari left Tehran this morning for Finland at the head of a commercial delegation. Before departing he spoke to our correspondent. We invite you to listen to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Ja'fari, what is the objective of your visit to Finland? Who makes up your delegation?

[Abedi-Ja'fari] In the name of God, the Almighty. Greetings to the imam, to the martyr-nurturing nation, and to the brave combatants of Islam. Our visit to Finland will last 5 days, God willing. Our major objective will be to consolidate relations between the two countries. As the delegation is composed of brothers from the export-import sector and from the political department of the Foreign Ministry, we will particularly seek to furnish part of our country's needs from Finland and to discuss the trade of some of our goods.

[Correspondent] What countries are given priority in trade and on what are your transactions based?

[Abedi-Ja'fari] In general, the Islamic Republic gives priority to Muslim countries over other countries. As for the nature of transactions, we prefer to trade with countries with a proportionate balance of trade with us excluding oil. Second are countries with a proportionate balance of trade with us including oil. Finland is in the second group. We sell oil to Finland and import its basic products such as the output of its forestry industry, paper, and wood. [end recording]

'Defector' Cited on Support for Iraqi Chemical Weapons

LD271919 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] London, Oct 27, IRNA — A defector from the Iraqi chemical warfare corps has verified the assistance given by European companies in Baghdad's manufacture of chemical weapons.

According to London's new *Independent* newspaper, details have been disclosed by an Iraqi informant that West European firms have not merely helped Baghdad build up chemical weapons capabilities but "European technicians, particularly from West Germany, are still working on site side-by-side with the Iraqi military" to produce lethal chemical weapons.

While many countries are convinced of the West's role in supplying raw materials, equipment, and technical expertise, the paper notes the virtual condoning by several Western embassies in Baghdad of "the flow of West German engineers to top security sites in Iraq known to be producing poison gas."

The Independent relates that there are three plants in Iraq, at Al-Qa'im, Akashaht [as received], and Samarra' which manufacture deadly weapons responsible for killing and severely maiming of thousands of Iranians in regular attacks Iraqi forces have made in its war.

Quoting the defector's account, the daily says that when foreign journalists went to Baghdad in 1984 to investigate the manufacture of nerve gases, the Iraqis successfully "hoodwinked" the inquiry.

Communiques Detail Recent Combat Operations

No 2,637

LD271604 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 27 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 27, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected six cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Monday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,637 said that an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and 10 enemy bunkers and three vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Sunday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions on Sunday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying two bases. Enemy fire was also silenced.

During artillery duels in the western fronts on Sunday major parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and a number of enemy vehicles carrying personnel and ammunition destroyed, the communique said.

Elsewhere, the communique said that Iraqi forces sustained casualties and losses during Iranian shelling Sunday of Iraq's petrochemical installations in the southern fronts.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavier in Tala'iyeh, Zeydi, and Kushk operational theaters. Enemy engineering operations including construction of a bridge were halted in Basra, according to the communique.

No 2,638

LD281602 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 28 Oct 86

[Text] Tehran, Oct 28, IRNA — An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five enemy vehicles and several gun emplacements set ablaze in the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Monday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,638 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Monday destroying at least 10 enemy gun emplacements and killing their crews.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi forces incurred substantial casualties and losses in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Monday.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts on Monday raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj 'Umran, Qasr-e Shirin, and Faqqeh.

Convoys of Iranian patrols reconnoitered Iraqi positions throughout the fronts dealing heavy blows on enemy troops. The patrols returned safely to their bases.

Elsewhere, the communique said a convoy of about 45 Iraqi patrols sustained casualties and was forced to flee in Mehran operational theater on Monday by Iranian artillery fire.

Activities of Iraqi armoured and infantry units as well as enemy engineering operations were halted in operational theaters of Mehran, Meimak [spelling as received] and Helaleh on Monday, according to the communique.

The military communique furthermore said that Iranian tank fire on Iraqi armoured units in 'Eyn Khvosh and Nahr 'Anbar on Monday silenced enemy fire.